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SUMMARY OF NEWS.

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Politics of Europe.

London, September 15, 1821.—The opinions delivered by the Ministerial Papers on the subject of the Greek Insurrection, and of the views of Russia, have been so very different at different times, that if brought together they would form as fine a specimen of human inconsistency as any which has ever been exhibited.

At first THE COURIER treated the idea of a Greek Insurrection as altogether ridiculous; when neither the reality nor the formidable nature of the Insurrection could any longer be doubted, the Declaration from Laybach, in which it is strongly condemned, inspired THE COURIER with the firmest reliance on Russia and her magnanimous Emperor, and the Turks were to be saved from destruction by the Russians; when, in the progress of this Insurrection, the establishment of an independent Greek Empire began to be talked of, the idea filled THE COURIER with the utmost alarm, but so far from being yet apprehensive of Russia, he told us—"Should the Turkish Government be too weak to quell the rebellion, Austria and Russia are at hand to end the struggle."

But in the course of time THE COURIER began to view the magnanimous ALEXANDER and his Russians as something more than mere champions of Legitimacy. Suspicions were at first thrown out under the head of Letters from Paris, and at last the most ambitious designs were unhesitatingly attributed to Russia, which, we were told, had a million of men ready to pounce upon Turkey, and to keep her neighbours in check.

Having all these different opinions of our contemporary pretty well present to our mind, we were not a little amused with his article of last night, which we shall here give at length:—

"It is amusing to observe some of the speculations of those who are determined that a war must take place, at all events, between Russia and Turkey. We are now told that the European Powers mean to concert the particular measures which they may deem it expedient to pursue, under existing circumstances, and that the Emperor ALEXANDER is to be entrusted with the execution of them. Whoever knows any thing of the character of that Monarch, and of the policy of the monarchy itself, for so it may almost be called, with respect to Turkey, will be at once struck with the manifest absurdity of this supposition. The bare idea, indeed, of Russia acting as a mere instrument, to further any presumed common views of Europe, without deriving from her exertions the slightest advantage to her own views, is so preposterous, that we wonder it can have suggested itself to any sober-minded politician. But were we even to concede this hypothesis, we should be yielding a point destructive of the very consequence which its authors have drawn from it; namely, a war. Can it be for a moment supposed, that if the leading Powers of Europe were unanimous upon any system of policy with regard to Turkey, and that Russia were selected to give effect to that policy, the Ottoman Government could dream of resistance? She might be tempted to try the fate of arms with Russia singly, if the rest of Europe were even neutral; but to take the field against the confederated Continental States, would be obvious ruin.

"We will venture to assert, however, that no danger of this kind menaces the Porte. The speculations and conjectures of

the Paris Papers, contained in private letters, as they are termed, from Vienna, Frankfort, Augsburg, Brody, and other places, are entitled to very little, if any, confidence. The disturbed state of the Greek Provinces is sufficient to justify, as a matter of mere precaution, the concentration of a considerable force along the frontiers of Russia and Austria; though we do not mean to say that nothing more than mere precaution was from the first contemplated.

"There is not a more intricate branch of European politics than that which connects itself with the maintenance, or dismemberment, of the Ottoman Empire in Europe. It may affirmed, in fact, that this Empire has found its safety in the jealousies of mutual pretensions. These rival checks have hitherto preserved Turkey, amid many eager wishes kindled by its fine provinces, and these checks will continue to preserve it, till the period (how far distant that may be, we shall not now inquire), when internal dissensions shall open breaches, through which ambition may enter with plausible necessity.

"With respect to the probabilities of war at the present moment, we have, from the first, seen no sufficient grounds to justify any strong belief that it would take place. Whether we have judged rightly, events will determine. We are surprised, however, to hear it urged by those who maintain a contrary opinion, that the mercantile letters from Constantinople and Odessa breathe the language of peace, because the writers express rather what they wish, than what they think. A very little knowledge, as to the effect which hostilities would produce, would be sufficient to demonstrate that the merchants, and those engaged in trade, are not precisely the individuals most alarmed at the idea of a war."

In this precious political discourse there are many things deserving of more attention than we can now bestow on them. There are some people who can find in every thing food for self-satisfaction; and it is upon this principle, we suppose that we must account for the amusement which THE COURIER tells us he now derives from the consideration of his own speculations. Those who are subject to the inconvenience of blushing occasionally, cannot fail to envy his happiness. But how bold at the same time! "Whoever knows any thing of the character of that Monarch (things are come to a fine pass), and of the policy of the Monarchy itself, for so it may almost be called with respect to Turkey, will be at once struck with the manifest absurdity of the supposition. The bare idea, indeed, of Russia acting as a mere instrument to further any presumed common views of Europe, without deriving from her exertions the slightest advantage to her own views, is so preposterous that we wonder it can have suggested itself to any sober-minded politician." This is very well from one Legitimate to another, and will surprise those who honestly believed that ambition could only lodge in the bosoms of Usurers. It will not fail to be remarked too that we are here told in so many terms, that if Russia do not attack Turkey, it is because she shall have been deterred by certain other Powers. "We do not mean to say, that nothing more than mere precaution was from the first contemplated!"

These contradictions will, no doubt, give rise to many conjectures. Some people might wish to know, whether they are pure emanations from the successive views of Ministers, whether the paragraphs of THE COURIER are to be considered as their embodied wisdom, as the fruits of their political sagacity and consistency, or whether they are the generous and unsophisticated produce of the meditations of THE COURIER.—Morning Chronicle.

London, September 15, 1821.—We understand his MAJESTY'S displeasure was conveyed to Sir ROBERT BAKER through Lord SIDMOUTH in no very pleasant terms; and that Sir ROBERT, with proper spirit, immediately tendered his resignation.

Duke of Wellington.—Our readers will have perused an extract from a private Letter from Paris, relative to a challenge by the son of the murdered Ney to the Duke of Wellington. The Duke has sent the following letter to the paper in which the account first appeared:—

“Strathfield Saye, Sept. 9, 1821.

“Sir,—I see that in the fifth column of the second page of your paper of the 7th instant, there is a paragraph respecting myself in a supposed letter, without date, stated to be from Paris.—The whole statement in this paragraph is false; and as it relates to the conduct of another individual as well as to myself, I beg you will take the earliest opportunity of contradicting it.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

WELLINGTON.”

Taxation.—People in general, though they feel the great pressure of Taxation, have a very inadequate idea of its enormous amount. The National Debt amounts to about Eleven Hundred Millions. The Income of the Country is about One Hundred and Twenty-eight Millions; from which is taken annually, in King's and Parochial Taxes, about Sixty-eight Millions; that is, more than One Half of the Whole Income of the People!—Owing to the Pitt System, (War and Funding) the Currency, on which all contracts, prices, &c. chiefly depend, has been forced into violent and unnatural fluctuations. The Debt is nominally as great, or greater, and its interest nominally the same, as when the Currency was 25 per cent. lower than it is at present. Is it strange, therefore, that the pressure is now felt by all to be intolerable, and that even the Lords of the soil insist on a reduction of taxation? But who caused its overwhelming amount—who but those very Public Guardians, who were said to be watching over the national purse, but who, in fact, were allowing Ministers to drain it of the last pound, in order to gratify their selfishness, their ambition, and their bitter hatred of Reform? As for Lord Liverpool's assertion,—that the Americans are now equally suffering, and therefore, as they are not an overtaxed people, great distress may prevail without excessive taxation,—it is an assertion merely, which we venture explicitly to contradict. No doubt, there is suffering among the traders in America, owing to the mercantile difficulties of Europe; but that it exists in any thing like the degree prevailing in England, is no more true, than that the cause of the agricultural distresses is occasioned by “too abundant harvests”—another of his Lordship's hardy and equally unfounded assertions. If Lord Liverpool did not fear Reform above all other things, we are convinced that he never would talk in this way. He knows better. The price of corn cannot be raised by any legislative measure, so long as there is an abundant supply. It is the cost, then, of raising the produce, that must give way. But this cost is composed of the wages of labour, of the rent of the land, of poor rates, tithes, and taxes; it is notorious to every one, that labour is not too highly paid, and cannot be reduced. Tithes have been consequently reduced, and poor rates are falling, under the improved condition of the labourer. It is, therefore, in rent and taxes that any abatement is now possible. Rents must fall at least 33 per cent. or one-third, in order to enable the farmer to continue his calling. Nor do we see any hardship in this abatement.—*Chelmsford Paper.*

Freehold Estate.—Lord Beresford has purchased a freehold estate in the county of Carlow, in Ireland, for 55,000*l.* the present annual rental of which amounts to 2,500*l.*

Rev. Francis Gisborne.—The late Rev. Francis Gisborne who has bequeathed the residue of his property, after paying some legacies, to the public hospitals of Sheffield, Derby, and Nottingham, which is estimated at 5,000*l.* each, it is now discovered, was the anonymous donor of three sums of 10,000*l.* 3 per cent. Consols to each of the above Institutions, about fifteen years ago.

The King.—Our letters from Milford, Bristol, Plymouth, and Portsmouth, giving no account of his MAJESTY'S appearance, we must conclude that the Royal squadron, in its attempt to beat round the Land's End, has stood over the Irish shore; and if the weather was as tempestuous on that shore as it was here on Wednesday, his MAJESTY would perhaps be obliged to put into Cork harbour. No doubt, however, can exist, that whether the squadron went into Cork, or only stood well over towards the Irish coast, it will with the prevailing winds, be able to weather the Land's End, and it may be hoped that his MAJESTY'S arrival at Portsmouth will very soon be announced.—*Courier.*

We (*Drogheda Journal*) have great pleasure in announcing the following circumstance, which took place during his Majesty's visit to Slane:—A young Gentleman of this town, who had been of opinion that strict combination of musical sounds could be produced by an instrument formed from a Horse's Head, undertook to make one, and succeeded in his attempt, even to his most sanguine expectations. Having completed this extraordinary work at the period of his Majesty's late visit, he lost no time in presenting it, well knowing his Majesty's wish to foster musical talent; and we subjoin the gracious answer which the Monarch made through our gallant countryman, Sir Benjamin Blomefield, Bart:—

SIR, *Henry Smith, Esq. West-street, Drogheda.*

I have had the honour to present for the King's acceptance the very interesting and curious musical instrument you entrusted to my care. His Majesty commands me to offer the expression of his thanks for your attention, which could not fail to be acceptable to his Majesty.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient Servant,
Dublin Castle, Aug. 23, 1821. (Signed) B. BLOMEFIELD.

Letter from Paris.—The following is an extract of a Private Letter from Paris, which we received a day or two ago, but withheld till we could be assured of its accuracy. All doubts, as to the reality of the deplorable event having taken place, we are assured, may now be dismissed. We still, however, suppress the names of the parties. The brother of the deceased, is we understand, a General Officer, in the Royal Guard:—

Paris, Sept. 30.—“The higher circles in Paris are at this moment appalled by the intelligence of an event horribly tragical in its character, and the parties in which are personages well known. I have just been told, and unhappily, I cannot doubt the truth of my information, that M. de P.—, one of the sons of a distinguished merchant, who, by most honourably amassing a fortune, has enriched his native place, Neuchatel, had conceived suspicions of the fidelity of his wife, Mademoiselle de C.—. Their marriage was the result of mutual inclination. Mademoiselle de C.— had no fortune, that of M. de P.— amounts to about five or six millions of francs. The suspicions entertained by M. de P.— were, it appears but too well founded. Some days ago, desirous of resolving a fact which a wise man always leaves in doubt, he pretended to quit his residence, but promptly returned, armed with a sabre, and finding his wife and her lover in a situation which was but too convincing, he immediately killed the former, and left her lover for dead.”

The *Etoile*, a Paris evening paper of the 30th ult. contains the following paragraph upon the subject:—

“Seven or eight years ago, an adventure was spoken of which happened to General —, who, on his return home, unexpectedly, found his wife in a very animated *tete-a-tete* with a young Colonel. The General drew his sword, and with a single thrust grievously wounded the two lovers.

“An event has been whispered about in Paris during some days past, which bears much analogy to the above, but which has been attended with a result still more calamitous. We forbear to state the names of the persons who figure in it, from regard to the respectable families to whom they are related.”

Monday, April 8, 1822.

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The Alabaster Sarcophagus.—The celebrated Alabaster Sarcophagus, which lately arrived from Alexandria, was yesterday uncased, and deposited in the British Museum. It is, for the present, in one of the apartments not open to the public, where probably it will lie until a place is prepared for it in the Egyptian Gallery. This antique is certainly a very extraordinary and admirable specimen of the arts of Egypt. The sarcophagus is nine feet long, and about four feet high, apparently of a single piece, and that of a very fine alabaster. It is shaped like a modern coffin, and is more than large enough to have the mummy with all its envelopes, which is presumed to have been deposited within this costly repository. But its chief value is in the innumerable hieroglyphics which cover the sides, interior, and exterior, from top to bottom. They are small, the human figures, of which there are long processions, in various circumstances and attitudes, erect—linked together, towing galleys,—bending as if in worship, &c. are from an inch to an inch and half high. Between those are compartments of symbols, the eye, the ibis, the lotus, &c. The serpent occurs frequently, and in some instances at considerable size, and with much exactness of detail. This noble work is supposed to be the coffin of Psammis. Conjecture, however, has an extensive range in Egyptian antiquity, and some probabilities have been suggested in favour of its being no tomb but a temple—a small shrine imitative of the original Cymba, or great Diluvian vessel, to which so many of the Indian emblems refer. The ark seems to have formed a vast source of Pagan allegoric sculpture. The pecuniary value of this sarcophagus has been estimated at a very large sum.—It was the property of Mr. Salt, the British Consul, and was, we understand, the subject of competition by the agents of some foreign Powers. If the industry of our antiquaries should be at length turned from the frivolous and feeble pursuits which have, for so long a time, rendered the name of English antiquarianism obscure, a noble opportunity is offered in this monument and the other Egyptian memorials for retrieving our national reputation in learned and productive research. The court and hall of the British Museum are now covered with works of the purest and most remote antiquity, and doubtless of the highest value for the illustration of the early ages of the world. The attention of learned men abroad has been lately turned to this study, but on the Continent its materials are deficient. In England they are now abundant, and it will be little to our honor to leave the discovery of the secrets of science, the arts, mythology, and history, which those sculptures more than probably contain, to the more fortunate industry and intelligence of strangers.—*Courier*.

Extract of a letter to a Lady in the vicinity of Chelmsford, dated "New Essex, Graham's Town, on the frontiers of Africa, June 24, 1821 :—"

Cape of Good Hope.—"I am seven hundred miles distant from the Cape of Good Hope, and should not receive intelligence of an arrival there for at least three weeks; but my correspondent at Cape Town will procure comfortable lodgings, &c. until a ship sails for Algoa Bay, which is distant from me one hundred and thirty miles. Few ships from England proceed farther than the Cape. Good ploughmen are wanted, and good foot-ploughs, with spare wrought-iron shares and coulters, which are very expensive here; iron-work nothing under 1s. per lb. Ransome's ploughs sell for 14l. each. Ploughmen will find plenty of employers, at from 2l. to 3l. per month, and their board. Meat sells at 2d. per lb.; wheat, 12s. a bushel; and barley, 6s. Other articles of housekeeping are about the same price as in England; but, on the other hand, we are in one of the healthiest climates in the world, and free from rent, tithes, and taxes, of every description. Any one may live here as well with 500l. as in his native land with 5000l. The farming work is all done with oxen, which are very fine, and bought at 3l. each; cows are 30s.; and sheep 6s. a-head, (having tails that weigh 8lb., a complete lump of fat); clothes, linen, and all English goods, very dear. Good mechanics, of any description, have very high wages. A cargo of Ladies would make a good speculation, in proceeding to the New Settlement; for all that came out with the settlers have gotten husbands."—*Chelmsford Chronicle*.

Shipping.—An Account of the Number of Ships, with the Tonnage, belonging to Great Britain, in each of the last seven years :—

| Years. | Ships. | Tonnage. |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| 1814..... | 19,885 | 2,329,782 |
| 1815..... | 20,200 | 2,394,227 |
| 1816..... | 20,400 | 2,416,504 |
| 1817..... | 20,086 | 2,353,072 |
| 1818..... | 20,226 | 2,358,176 |
| 1819..... | 20,213 | 2,356,602 |
| 1820..... | 20,148 | 2,342,712 |

Interesting to Mariners.—A Bahama Paper of the 25th of July states, that the Survey of the Gulf Stream has been completed, and that a new chart is prepared to be transmitted to the Lords of the Admiralty. It is said, that the errors of all the old charts on the most prominent points of the Gulf passage have been the cause of so many vessels getting on the Florida reef. A Pier is constructing at Plymouth, for the purpose of watering the ships of war, without taking out their casks: brought alongside the pier, the vessels will receive their water by means of leather pipes from a fine spring a short distance from this useful work.

Miracles in 1821.—It would appear that the newly-revived belief in miracles is not exclusively confined to the disciples of Prince Hohenlohe, at Bamberg.

A young woman, who had been for some time grievously afflicted with the tooth-ache, lately applied to a *Limonadier* of the Faubourg Saint Martin, who imagines he possesses the power of effecting cures by miraculous means, as well as any German Prince. The following dialogue ensued :—

"What is your pleasure, Mademoiselle?"—"Ah, Sir, you see how my face is swelled, and how I am disfigured."—"You have the tooth-ache?"—"Yes, Sir, and your high reputation induced me to come to you."—"But you have somebody with you?"—"Oh, Sir! he is my intended."—"You think I can cure you?"—"I have been told so;"—"And you believe it?"—"I do."—"Bravo! I have the tooth."—"Oh, pray don't draw it, Sir!"—"I need only touch it with the point of my finger, and two words will afford you relief—*Microe Salem*;—now pay me, and begone!"

The subjoined paragraph describes a miracle of a still more extraordinary kind, and one which is certainly the better entitled to credit, since a pretty woman is at once the heroine of the story, and the guarantee of its authenticity.

Madame de—, after a widowhood of two or three months, became more extravagant and more fond of pleasure than ever she had been in her husband's life. She was present at every new opera, every ball, and every place of fashionable amusement. Astonished at this gay kind of philosophy, one of her female friends ventured to question her on the subject. "Well, I must let you into my secret," said the sprightly widow. "Know, then, that I join in all these fashionable follies, only in obedience to my husband's commands."—"How! did he order it so in his will?"—"In his will! Oh no! come, I must tell you! Whenever I receive an invitation to a concert or a ball, the first thing I do, even before I give an order to my maid, or my milliner, is to proceed to the burial ground of *Pere Lachaise*."—"Well, that's certainly a most singular preparation for a ball!"—"I kneel down before the tomb of my husband—" "Oh! I understand, you make a prelude to the pleasures of the evening, by the tears you shed in the morning! Well, that's a sort of compensation?"—"Nay, but hear me. I press my lips close to the marble, and I whisper, 'Dear husband, do not be angry if I go to-night to Madame—'s party,'—and he replies, 'You may go, my love.'"—"What a droll idea! and you really fancy you hear him say so?"—"Yes! he speaks very softly, to be sure; but then I have such a delicate ear!"—"And do you ever ask him any other questions?"—"Oh yes! I sometimes consult him about my dress, and he gives me his advice; for I verily believe he reads the *Journal des Modes* as regularly as I do. It was he who advised me to buy this new *Cashmere*?"—"Ah! my dear friend, what a happy woman you are!—Your dead husband is ten thousand times better than my living one!"

Flummery.

(From the Dublin Evening Post.)

There is no denying it—the charges of the London Press against some of us—for certain orientalisms—are fair enough. That we are not indisposed to join them in the laugh, we shall shew by a few elegant extracts, taken from one of our contemporaries, who, when he sees the flowers of his rhetoric culled for the purpose, and collected into a banquet, “cannot choose but smile,” as they used to say in Queen Anne’s time. *The Freeman’s Journal* having complained that the management of the Dublin Society House prevented it from giving an account of the entertainment which the Members of that useful Institution gave to the King—by the by, we have not forgotten the Society—*The Patriot* exclaimed it was “quite a mistake,” and for the following substantial reasons:—

“We partook of the excellent viands with which the various tables were covered; we demolished our castle; ate, like a Nero, of the sweet jewels which decorated most costly crowns of pastry; we had our dishes of jelly and blanc-mange; we drank our bottle of champagne, and warmed ourselves with wine, and cooled ourselves with ice, until the hospitalities of the Society would have laid tribute on our powers of perception, when we retired, in the ordinary phrase, “highly gratified by the flattering civilities and urbanity of our numerous hosts.”—(*Patriot*.)

Not only Nero’s man, but Heliogabalus. We demolished castles—we gobbled up costly crowns—we ate jellies—we drink Champagne—we warmed ourselves with wine—we cooled ourselves with ice. The devil you did. Now, if you gave the Society an Irish lilt in return, or a jig upon the sod, it would be only the natural conclusion of the scene. Perhaps the Irish public do not know who the Esterhazys are. The *Patriot* shall tell them:—

“To describe the splendour of the equipages of Prince Esterhazy, his numerous retinue, his grand establishment, his amazing and unbounded wealth, would tax credulity. We believe he keeps more than 20 carriages in London, with such a multitude of servants, that they have more the appearance of a little army than a suite of domestics. And yet there is as little of personal vanity, as little of importance in the air and manner of this illustrious and wealthy family, as though they were the humblest persons in the land. On Thursday evening we sat in the same box with the Prince Paul, the Princess, and the Count Esterhazy, at the Theatre, and we were for a considerable time unconscious of the rank of the personages immediately beside us. Certain it is, neither the dignity nor the wealth of this powerful family influences a demeanor remarkable only for its elegance and suavity.”—(*Patriot*.)

What a fortune chance!—What a proud night for *The Patriot*, “happy man is his dole.” Only think of his sitting in a box with a Prince and Princess, with a man who keeps twenty carriages, and an army, yea, a whole army of servants—whose wealth, moreover, is not only amazing but unbounded.

When next with Esterhazy’s might

The *Patriot* sits so free—

With Prince and Princess, Count and Knight,

May I be there to see!

We thought we had given a tolerably correct account of his Majesty’s visit to Powerscourt; at least we endeavoured to detail what came under our observation, for we happened to be in the noble mansion during his Majesty’s stay. It appears, however, by the following extract from *The Patriot*, that though we told the truth, we did not tell it all:—

His Majesty’s Visit to the Waterfall.

“When his Majesty was ready to view the sublime effects of the cascade, the torrent descended with prodigious and unprecedented power.”—(*Patriot*.)

His Majesty must be gifted with more than human optics then—for we can take our sacrament oath that he was never nearer the Waterfall than the saloon of Powerscourt House; and we might avouch, under the sanction of the same obligation, that if he did see the sublime effects of the cascade, and the prodigious descent of the torrent, it must have been through the wall. However, we will not undertake to contradict *The Patriot*. A man who can eat a castle (*vide supra*) may easily wash it down with a waterfall. But we did not know until now, that Garagantua had the power of communicating his capabilities even to Kings. We held it, until we read *The Patriot*, equally unquestionable, that *de non apparentibus, et non existentibus, eadem est ratio*—in English, that, if there were no waterfall, no waterfall could be seen. Now, we know that there was no prodigious and unprecedented descent on Monday—for, why? the floodgates were forced a night or two before, and the congregated waters were dissipated. Still we speak under correction. If his Majesty saw the Waterfall, we are not prepared to dispute that the laws of Hydraulics were reversed, or that several thousand tons of water marched up the precipice for the nonce. This would be, at least, as easy as for human vision to see through brick and mortar.

Reduction of Small Salaries.

Sir,

To John Calcraft, Esq. M. P.

The liberal sentiments which you are understood to hold, and to which, indeed, you gave utterance in the House of Commons when the establishments of the public departments were under consideration, have naturally led me to address you on the present occasion. These opinions, I would fain think, can never be in unison with the tenor of the late Circular from the Treasury, a Circular which I venture fearlessly to pronounce to be a compound of the greatest absurdity, mixed up with the most striking injustice, that ever issued from a Lithographic or any other Press. This notable Treasury Minute, so worthy of the Committee by which has been connected, begins by wholly withdrawing the advantages of a scale long established for increase of salary after certain periods of service, under faith of which arrangement numbers had entered the public offices, and in full confidence of its continuance, had shaped their private establishments, and changed their condition in life by marriage.

It then goes on to impose a tax of 5 per cent. upon the salaries of all clerks; and upon those which shall have been increased since 1797, a further per centage of 2½ if under 500*l.* per annum, of 5 per cent. if under 1000*l.* and 10 per cent. if above 1000*l.*; this contribution to be paid over to the National Debt Office, to form a fund for the payment of retired servants of the State. This measure, severe and oppressive as it is, might have been borne with more patience had it begun by setting an example of retrenchment in the highest offices of the State; there would have been a fellowship in this, and an honesty of intention which would at least have afforded some balm to the mind: but, strange as it may appear, those who have secured to themselves a more than ordinary share of the public treasure, are the first to lay violent hands upon their subordinate friends, and to seek relief for the necessities of the State from any other, rather than their own sources. Whether it be, they feel, that to lower others and to despoil them of their fair earnings, is the only retribution in their power to make to an injured public, or that blinded by self-love (a principle inherent, more or less, in all), they consider themselves as alone deserving of remuneration, I leave for others to judge. It is, however, but too clear, that the dependents of office are intended to be made the expiatory victims, the peace-offering to the Benches of Opposition. That there will be too high a spirit in that quarter to accept the bribe of immunity in their own persons, should any change of men and measures take place, I feel the strongest assurance; indeed the whole proceeding is so partial and unjust, that I never can bring myself to believe that a majority of the House of Commons will be found to give it countenance. What! is the Political Placeman to be exempted? The man who comes at once “per saltum” into great emoluments, who takes office not as a calling, not as a profession, not for his bread, but as a stepping-stone to his ambition, and as a road to further honours and dignities? Is this man, I say, to be excused from this tax, upon the pretence that the benefit of the act of retirement does not extend to his situation (although, perhaps, he has already secured, and is in actual enjoyment of an ample sinecure or pension), whilst the drudging clerk, who has laboured through the heat of the day, who has reckoned upon his place as his estate, his freehold, his all, is to be ground down and ruined?—It cannot be—it never can stand.

But let us examine the contents of this redoubted Circular a little more closely. It refers to the year 1797, as the standard to which we should recur at the present day. But have not the allowances to the Royal Princes, have not the salaries of the Judges been increased since that period? Has not the pay of the Soldier been nearly doubled? Yet has any intimation been given of reducing either the one or the other? Why then should the inferior Civil Servants of the State be singled out? Is it that they are too feeble and dependent to make any formidable resistance; or is it that they have been found of late to be amassing large fortunes? The large fortunes made by Clerks in office are to be found, I believe, in the land of Utopia. But there is another point which I wish particularly to be borne in mind, namely, that the Widows and Families of the Civil Servants of the State, are not provided for by Government (a few cases of favoured individuals, and just those where no such provision is necessary) excepted. What then, I say, is to become of the Families of the Civil Servants of the State, if not only their prospects be suddenly cut off, but such a deduction be made from their present salaries as will prevent their making any provision for them by an allotment of a portion of their incomes to a life insurance?

But a word with respect to the charge upon all salaries, of 5 per cent. for the purpose of creating a superannuation fund. Has Government made any calculation of the numbers in their service who never retire;—who die with harness on their backs? Is it equitable to make such individuals commit a robbery upon their own families, for the purpose of supporting persons with whom they have not an official connection? An Act of Parliament, to be sure, is all-powerful; but supposing no bar of that kind to exist, I should like to have the opinion of Counsel, whether the families of such clerks as may die at their desks would not have a good action against Government, for the recovery of the amount of their contribution.

POLITICAL ECONOMY.

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Mr. Godwin and Mr. Malthus.

(Edinburgh Review, No. LXX.)

An Inquiry concerning the Power of Increase in the Numbers of Mankind. Being an Answer to Mr. Malthus's Essay on that Subject. By William Godwin, London, 1821.

We are surprised at this publication of Mr. Godwin. Notwithstanding the prejudices which have prevailed against him on account of his moral and political theories, we have always felt a respect for his talents; and have thought that his reputation has been as much too low of late years, as it was too high soon after he wrote his Political Justice. The present work proves, either that we were wrong in our estimate of his powers, or that they are now greatly impaired by time. It appears to us, we confess, to be the poorest and most old-womanish performance that has fallen from the pen of any writer of name, since we first commenced our critical career. So long as Mr. Godwin's judgment remained in sufficient vigour to repress useless ebullitions of anger against Mr. Malthus, he seems to have bit his lips in silence; and this laudable restraint lasted twenty years. But the sight of a fifth edition of the Essay on Population, operating, as we must suppose, upon an enfeebled judgment, was at length too much for him. As he says himself, he could refrain no longer: "he determined, at all events, to take the field; and, not being well prepared with the weapons of sound argument, he, like an old scold, 'unpacked his heart in words.' Though he professes a personal respect for Mr. Malthus, there is no kind or degree of abuse which he does not pour out upon his doctrines. He regards them with inexpressible abhorrence. They are portentous; they are calamitous; they are appalling; they are disgusting; they are atrocious; they are cabalistical, &c. &c. &c. He says he is full of matter, and that the spirit within constraineth him; † and this is the kind of stuff which he pours forth.

Now, we really think that this mode of treating a subject, on which a just decision is confessedly of great importance to the happiness of society, is utterly disgraceful to any writer of character and ability. If the arguments which Mr. Godwin can advance against Mr. Malthus's theory be just, there can be little doubt of its being overthrown without the aid of abuse. If, on the other hand, Mr. Malthus be correct in the view which he has taken of the law of population, abuse cannot possibly do any good, though it may obviously do some harm.

We confess that we have, for many years, been in the habit of considering the question of the principle of population as set at rest by Mr. Malthus. We should not, however, in any degree, have objected to see the view which he has taken of it proved to be fundamentally erroneous; but we really think that it would be a serious misfortune to society, and to the labouring classes in particular, that it should be believed to be erroneous, when it is not.

On first looking over Mr. Godwin's work, we were certainly not disposed to pay such a compliment to his eloquence, aided even by the zest of abuse, as to think that it would make what was true appear to be false; and, as the book was dear, and not likely to fall into the hands of the labouring classes, unless brought forward and quoted by others, which, from the manner in which the subject is treated, could not have been expected, we had no thoughts of noticing it. To our great surprise, however, we heard that it had made some impression in London upon a certain class of readers; and, to our still greater surprise, we learned from the papers, that upon occasion of a late discussion on the Poor-Laws Amendment Bill, it had been referred to by a member of the House of Commons as an elaborate work, which, in the opinion of good judges, had shown that Mr. Malthus's statements respecting the rate of the increase of population were quite unfounded. This set us upon looking again at the work which we had thrown aside; and, having convinced ourselves that the tables, and remarks upon them, brought forward by Mr. Godwin and his friend Mr. Booth, instead of weakening the statements of Mr. Malthus, tend to establish them on firmer foundations than ever, we think it may be of use, in reference to the subject generally, to state the grounds of this conviction.

It would be quite a waste of time to follow Mr. Godwin through the mass of abuse, repetition, and irrelevant matter, of which the different divisions of his work consist. We shall hasten at once to the latter part of the third book, which contains the only argument which has any appearance of shaking, by an appeal to facts, the ratios of the natural increase of population laid down by Mr. Malthus.

In this part of the work, which appears to be written by a Mr. Booth, after many pages of the most solemn and absurd trifling which we have ever witnessed, ‡ the following useful observation occurs.

* Preface, p. vi. — † Ibid. p. vi.

‡ Mr. Booth gravely informs us, that in fact the Swedish children are brought into the world by the child-bearing females, p. 270. He

'When enumerations are taken every ten years, it is obvious, exclusive of immigration, that in any particular census the persons living above ten years of age must have all existed in the census immediately preceding. In that of 1810, for instance, all above ten years formed part of the population of 1800; and are in reality the same, except inasmuch as they are diminished by death. Those under ten have all been in the interval between the censuses.'

This observation may serve to form a rule by which to judge of the amount of immigration in any country where such censuses are taken; because the excess of the population above ten years of age in the census, after a proper allowance has been made for the mortality in the interval, must consist of persons who have emigrated from other countries.

We are disposed to give Mr. Booth some credit for this rule, which, though obvious, has not, that we are aware of, been suggested before. But we cannot give him credit for the manner in which he applies it. Here his general want of information shows itself, and leads him into gross errors, which render his conclusion quite wide of the truth. A very slight consideration will be sufficient to show the nature and effect of those errors.

Before we can ascertain the amount of immigration from the numbers above ten years old in the second census, it is obvious that we must make a proper allowance for the mortality of the population of the first census in the ten years between the first and second. Mr. Booth, proceeding, we suppose, upon the supposition that the mortality in the United States is 1 in 40, imagines that he shall obtain the mortality of the ten years in question, by multiplying the mortality of one year by ten; and so infers, that the population of the first census would in ten years, be diminished by $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{5}$. He forgets, or perhaps he never knew, that the very early years of life are the greatest contributors to the annual mortality. In a table of the numbers in different ages dying annually in Sweden, brought forward by Dr. Price,* it appears, that the mortality of the male children under one year of age was 1 in 33, while the mortality between the ages of 5 and 10 was 1 in 68; between the ages of 10 and 15, 1 in 131; and between the ages of 15 and 20, 1 in 139. It is quite obvious, therefore, that the ten years' mortality of a population which is rising into the healthiest stages of life, and is not affected by fresh births, and the frail tenure of existence in its earliest periods, must be essentially different from the annual mortality of the whole population multiplied by ten.

According to Dr. Price's table, before adverted to, the annual mortality of the male population of Sweden for 21 years, from 1755 to 1776, was 1 in 33, and of the male and female taken together, 1 in 34.6; but, if a calculation be made from this, and the table immediately preceding it, with a view to ascertain the loss in ten years on a population, none of which had been born during that time, it will appear that this loss will be 1 in 52.80, or nearly 1 in 53; while, if the annual mortality had been multiplied by ten, the loss would have been as much as 1 in 34.6.

On the annual mortality of the population of the United States, writers have differed. Mr. Barton, in the Transactions of the Society at Philadelphia (Vol. iii. No. 7.), has stated it to be 1 in 45; while Mr. Winter and others, without referring to any documents of authority, have made it as high as 1 in 40. We should suppose, from the peculiar structure of the American population, and the great excess of the births above the deaths, that it was less than Mr. Barton's estimate, as even upon his estimate, the expectation of life would not be so high as in Sweden; which, considering the numbers which must die in the latter country, from the consequences of scarcity and bad food, is making a large allowance for the greater natural unhealthiness of America. It is comfortable, however, to get rid of these sweeping and conjectural estimates, by an appeal to recorded facts and we find that the mortality of Philadelphia, according to bills published by the Board of Health for eight years, from 1807 to 1814 inclusive, was found to be no more than 1 in 43, as stated in the valuable work of Dr. Seybert.† And if the mortality of the greatest towns in America be less than 1 in 40, we should expect that the mortality of the whole country would be less than 1 in 50; and this is the conjecture of Dr. Price. We should be aware that a mortality of 1 in 50 in America, where the increase is so rapid, does not imply a greater degree of healthiness than 1 in 34.6 in Sweden, where the population increases very slowly.

takes a world of pains to prove, that population can never increase in a geometrical progression, strictly regular. In this attempt he fails; but, if he had succeeded, of what possible consequence would it be to the general argument?

* Observations on Reversionary Payments, vol. ii. p. 124.

† Statistical Annals of the United States, p. 50. This work appears to be sanctioned by the Congress, and contains, we believe, all the authentic materials which are to be found on the subject of population in that country.

Adopting, however, the estimate of Mr. Barton, if we apply the calculated proportion of loss in ten years which would take place in Sweden, where the general mortality is 1 in 34.6 to America, where the general mortality is 1 in 45, we shall find that the population existing at the time of any one census, would have lost in ten years, or at the next census, $\frac{1}{6.878}$ or nearly $\frac{1}{7}$.

Instead, therefore, of subtracting $\frac{1}{7}$ for the loss of a given population in the course of ten years in America, we must subtract only $\frac{1}{6.878}$ and it will be found that this correction will make a very great difference in the appearance of immigration.

According to the American tables, as stated in Mr. Godwin's work it appears that the white population of 1800 was 4,305,971. If, from this number, we subtract the $\frac{1}{6.878}$ part for the diminution of the population in ten years, the population of 1800, which should be found living in 1810, will be 3,679,971, instead of 3,200,000, as stated by Mr. Booth; and, subtracting 3,679,971 from 3,845,389, the population above ten years of age actually found living in the census of 1810, we shall have 165,418 for the amount of immigration in ten years, instead of 645,389, as stated by Mr. Booth. If we then proceed to deduct the amount of immigration so found from 5,862,093, the whole white population of 1810, the remainder will be 5,696,623; and the difference between 4,305,671, the population of 1800, and the number 5,696,623, will express the increase of population between 1800 and 1810, independently of immigration, or by procreation only.

To ascertain the period of doubling which would result from this increase in ten years, we have only to apply the formula given by Dr. Price (in vol. i. p. 285), or the rules relating to compound interest or geometrical progression to be found in most books of arithmetic; and it will appear, that when a population of 4,305,971 increases to 5,696,673 in ten years, the annual ratio of increase will be rather above the decimal .0263, or rather less than the vulgar fraction $\frac{1}{35}$; and, if continued, will occasion a doubling of the population in about 34 years and 10 months.

It will be observed, that the amount allowed for immigration after the proposed correction has been applied, is 165,418 in the ten years, or above 16,000 a year. This, however, is considerably more than is allowed by any of the American Statistical writers; and is probably beyond the truth. We have already stated our reasons for believing, that 1 in 45 is greater than the true mortality of the United States taken throughout; and if so, the amount to be subtracted for the mortality during the ten years, would be diminished. But this amount would be much more diminished from another cause. This proportion of the births, and consequently of the population under one, two, and three years of age, must be much greater in America than in Sweden; and consequently, after the first three years of the ten had passed, the diminution of the annual mortality would be more considerable. If we had American tables, formed like those of Dr. Price for Sweden, we should expect, that, on account of the peculiar structure of the American population, arising from the great excess of births above deaths, it would turn out, that the proportion which a given population, without any fresh accession of births, would lose in ten years, instead of being rather more than $\frac{1}{7}$, would not be more than $\frac{1}{8}$; in which case, the amount of immigration annually would, by Mr. Booth's own rule, be only between seven and eight thousand, instead of above sixteen thousand; and the period of doubling would come near to the calculation of Dr. Seybert.

It appears, then, that, as far as we can judge of the increase of the population of the United States during the period to which Mr. Godwin refers, and the particulars of which are best known, Mr. Malthus's statements, taking the Eastern and Western States together, are most amply justified. But, in reality, the condition of the Eastern States does not apply to Mr. Malthus's proposition. His proposition, as we understand it, is this; that if the obvious causes which check marriage, and occasion premature mortality, were removed in such a way as they are actually found to be removed in some countries for short periods, the population would go on increasing at a rate which would double the numbers in less than twenty-five years. But, in the Eastern States, the towns are now large, and some some of them so unhealthy as scarcely to keep up their numbers. It is known that they are subject to the yellow fever, which seems to prevail only in towns of some size, and not to extend itself into the country. And further, there is reason to believe, that these portions of the American population are not exempt from those vices which tend to render marriage less frequent, less early, and less fruitful than in the country. The Western States, therefore, alone answer the conditions of Mr. Malthus's proposition, and alone furnish a practical illustration of the rate at which population may increase when unchecked. But what is this rate of increase? Mr. Booth has kindly furnished us with the means of ascertaining it with lit-

tle trouble. He has given a table of the population and progress of some of the Western States, separated from the others.* According to this table, the white population of the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Indiana, was, in 1800, 281,341; and in 1810 it had increased to 587,026. Proceeding upon the same principles as before in the application of Mr. Booth's rule, the amount of immigration will appear to have been 116,685 in the ten years; and, upon calculating the rate of increase, it will be found to be such as would double the population in a little more than thirteen years and a half. Mr. Malthus has mentioned, on the authority of Dr. Styles and Dr. Price, fifteen years as the period in which it was supposed that some of the back settlements had doubled; but he lays no stress upon it in his argument; yet in so large a district of America as that included in the table produced by Mr. Booth, a still greater rate of increase appears to have taken place, after making a full allowance for immigration.

That the proofs which have been adduced of the very rapid increase of the population of the United States, from procreation only, are of a kind which may safely be relied on, cannot admit of a doubt. In estimating the progress of population in any country, the first and main object is to ascertain the actual number of the people at different periods. The next is, if there be an increase, to determine what portion of this increase is attributable to immigration, and what portion may be considered as arising from procreation only. If we can ascertain these two points, all other information is quite of a subordinate kind in reference to the main question.

On the first of these points, the different censuses which have been taken in the United States are allowed to be quite satisfactory. Their general accuracy has not been attempted to be impeached even by Mr. Godwin.

With regard to the second point, all the accounts agree, that the influence of immigration upon the population of the United States, particularly in the intervals of the two censuses of 1790 and 1810, has been quite inconsiderable. On this subject we would refer to Dr. Seybert's chapter on Emigration.† After reviewing what had been stated by other writers, and producing an authentic estimate of the number of passengers, citizens as well as aliens, who arrived at the different ports of the United States in the extraordinary year 1817, which amounted to 22,240, he calculates, that no more than 6000 could have arrived annually from 1790 to 1810; and, allowing for their increase at the very high rate of 5 per cent., he concludes by stating, that the duplication of the free inhabitants, independently of immigration, would require only $\frac{1}{3}$ of a year more than when the immigrants were added. When to these accounts of the writers on the United States, we add the useful rule laid down by Mr. Booth, and apply it correctly according to the analogy of the tables of mortality in other countries, there is little reason to fear any essential error; and we may safely assert, that the information which we possess on these two points is not only much more important with a view to the main question, but much more to be depended upon than any we are likely to obtain on the ulterior and more difficult question of the proportion of births to marriages.

On this latter point, indeed, there is nothing which can be called evidence. No public documents which we have seen or heard of, give the marriages of the United States; and private estimates are generally so confined, that no safe inferences can be drawn from them. Mr. Barton, whose authority on this particular point Mr. Godwin is so eager to adopt;‡ expressly says, that his estimate was formed from a single village; and the few accounts which Mr. Godwin says he procured himself, are from towns which form no rule for the general population. To these very insufficient estimates, we may fairly oppose the authority of Mr. Bristed, who says, that, in the United States, the marriages average six births, of which four are reared.§ Allowing these opposing statements to neutralize each other, if we add, that Dr. Seybert, who has collected with care all the public documents relating to the population of the United States, is quite silent with regard to the marriages, it may safely be concluded, that, as yet, we have no information on the subject which can in the slightest degree be depended upon. We cannot, therefore, be warranted in stating, even as a conjecture, that the proportion of births to marriages in the United States is nearly the same as in Europe. Still less are we entitled to bring forward such a statement, with a view to invalidate other information of which there is good evidence.

But, independently of the proportion of births and marriages deduced from Mr. Barton's account, though seemingly against his own belief, all the other appearances and proportions in the structure of the American population, most strongly imply a very rapid increase from procreation. Dr. Price, has shown, that, in towns or districts recruited constantly by grown persons, the numbers in the higher ages of life

* P. 299. —† Statistical Annals, p. 23. —‡ P. 421. —§ Resources of the United States, p. 453.

exceed the usual proportion to the numbers in the lower. Consequently, if the increase of the American population were chiefly occasioned by immigration, we should find the proportion of persons above forty-five unusually large; instead of which, every American census shows it to be unusually small.

Mr. Booth observes, that in an indigenous society there are nearly a fourth of its members above forty-five years of age,* while, in none of the United States, is the number of persons above forty-five more than from 16 to 17 per cent. of the population; and in some of the newly settled districts, they do not exceed 7 or 8. Now, we apprehend, that a large proportion of persons above the age of forty-five has no more necessary connexion with an indigenous than it has with a *verigenous* society. If an indigenous population be nearly stationary, the proportion of one-fourth for the numbers above the age of forty-five, will probably be near the truth; and this we believe to be not an unfrequent proportion in the States of Europe. But if an indigenous population be increasing rapidly, it must of necessity have a much smaller part of the population in the advanced stages of life; and this is the case with the United States. The table of a fifteen years colony which Mr. Booth has taken the trouble to calculate† is not in the slightest degree applicable. It is true, that if you suppose emigrant breeders coming into a country in large bodies at the age of twenty-five, and then make a single enumeration of the population before the end of fifteen years, and consequently before any of these breeders have reached the age of forty-five, you will find a small proportion of the people in the more advanced stages of life. But has this case any relation to the whole of the United States, where the emigrations, to whatever amount they arise, have been going on for above 150 years? We conceive that it is hardly possible to state a proposition which carries truth more clearly in the face of it, than to say, that if a country increases for a considerable time principally by a yearly supply of grown persons, it will contain a much larger proportion of the population above forty-five, than if it increase at the same rate from procreation. Mr. Booth, in his remarks on this subject, shows so extraordinary a want of general information, that none but his friend can be his parallel. But, to be sure, his friend Mr. Godwin more than equals him.

Dr. Price, after having stated that the number of persons in New Jersey had been taken, by order of the Government, in 1738, and in the next seven years had been found to increase, by procreation only, at a rate which would double the population in twenty-two years,‡ remarks, as a peculiarity confirming the fact, that the number under sixteen years of age was nearly the half of the population, while in Dr. Halley's table it amounted to little more than one-third. Dr. Price, though he did not carry forward his views to all the important consequences of the laws of population, was thoroughly conversant with the scientific part of the question; and, possessing this kind of knowledge in an eminent degree, he mentions this proportion of the population under sixteen as a natural consequence, and additional proof of a very rapid increase by procreation. Yet Mr. Godwin produces this very fact as a proof of a result exactly the reverse! From this fact he says 'it inevitably follows, that, throughout the Union, the population, as far as depends on procreation, is at a stand.§ This age conclusion would make it appear, that the population of all the States in Europe is diminishing most rapidly, and that Sweden, which Mr. Godwin himself asserts is increasing, must soon be a desert.

Upon the inspection of the American census it appears, that about one half of the population is under sixteen years of age, and one-eighth above forty-five; while in many of the States of Europe, the proportion of the population under sixteen is about one-third, and above forty-five about one-fourth. These different proportions in the American tables, compared with those of Europe, supposing the expectation of life to be in any degree alike, must, to every person conversant with the subject, afford the clearest and most intelligible proofs of a very rapid increase of population in the United States from procreation. What, then, must we think of the knowledge of Mr. Godwin and Mr. Booth, who have chosen these proportions to prove, that almost the whole of the American increase arises from emigration? We did not think that such an instance of false reasoning could have occurred in the nineteenth century.

Nor does Mr. Godwin's knowledge appear to greater advantage when he talks about the proportion of births to marriages, which he thinks necessary to occasion a doubling of the population in twenty-five years. He insists upon it, over and over again, that for this purpose there must be eight births to a marriage. On this subject we would recommend him to read, with more attention than he appears yet to have done, Mr. Malthus's chapter on the Fruitfulness of Marriages. He will there see, that the rate of the increase of population is powerfully affected by two other causes besides the fruitfulness of marriages, namely, the proportion of the born which lives to marry, and the interval be-

tween the average age of marriage, and the average age of death; and that, taking these circumstances into consideration, and the effects produced on registers by second and third marriages, the population in the United States might double itself by procreation only every twenty-five years, with a proportion in the registers of only five births to a marriage. But on all these matters Mr. Godwin seems to be as profoundly in the dark as if he had never opened a book on the subject, or heard of a parish register. If he is determined to receive no information from Mr. Malthus, we recommend him to study diligently Dr. Price's two volumes on Reversionary Payments, before he ventures again to discuss the principles of population.

Among the many instances of Mr. Godwin's curious mode of illustrating his subject, it is difficult not to notice the strange absurdity of choosing Sweden as a specimen of the natural increase of population.* Mr. Malthus had stated, that when the labouring classes of society are amply supplied with necessities, the increase of population is always very rapid. To show that this cannot be true, Mr. Godwin instances the case of Sweden, where it is well known that the labouring classes are very scantily, instead of very amply supplied. He asks, Why the United States double their numbers in twenty-five years, while the increase of Sweden is so inconsiderable? We answer, that the American labourer is able, with ease, to support a family of ten or twelve children, while the Swedish labourer can with difficulty support three or four. Surely this is a broad, glaring, and sufficient reason for the difference in the rates of increase, without entering into further particulars. But if we want some of these particulars, it is obvious that, when the wages of labour can only support tolerably well a small family, some will be entirely deterred from marrying, and others will marry later than they otherwise would do; while those who marry early in spite of all difficulties, if they happen to have large families, will not be able to support them in such a way as to prevent the diseases and premature mortality arising from poverty and bad nourishment. On the other hand, when the labouring classes, as in America, never find the least difficulty in the support of the largest families, they will not only be tempted to marry early, by which means each generation, by marriage and birth, will be shortened, but they will be able to maintain the largest families in such a way as not to be subject to any of the diseases arising from insufficient nourishment. In the one case, both the preventive and positive checks to population will be actively in operation; in the other they will, comparatively, have no influence. The measure of the encouragement to population is the facility of supporting a family, determined by the actual earnings of the labourer, combined with those of his wife and children, throughout the year. These earnings will be regulated, according to Adam Smith, by the rapidity with which the funds for the maintenance of labour continue to increase; and it is a physical impossibility that these funds should continue to increase as fast in Sweden or in Switzerland, the countries to which Mr. Godwin refers, as in the United States. Consequently in such countries, though we may not know precisely all the modes in which the checks to population operate, we may be quite certain of their existence, and that to a considerable extent.

Hitherto we have been inclined to consider the gross mistakes which Mr. Godwin has made, as arising chiefly from a total want of knowledge of his subject. There are many, however, which do not admit of so favourable an interpretation, and seem as if they could only have arisen from wilful misrepresentation. Mr. Malthus has limited his term, moral restraint, to a temporary or final abstinence from marriage on prudential considerations, with strict chastity during the single state. Taken exclusively in this sense, and in reference to one half of society, he is not perhaps wrong in supposing, that its operation has not hitherto been very powerful. But whether right or wrong in this observation, it is quite certain that, throughout the whole of his work, he lays the greatest stress upon the preventive checks generally; and there is scarcely a country which he has examined, particularly in Europe, where he does not consider the checks of this kind as having had a very great effect in diminishing the number of births. It is inconceivable, therefore, that any degree of innocent misconception should have suggested the following passage. 'It is clearly Mr. Malthus's doctrine, that population is kept down in the old world, not by a smaller number of children being born among us, but by the excessive number of children which perish in their nonage, through the instrumentality of vice and misery.† This could only be said with a view to the prejudice which might be excited against Mr. Malthus's doctrines, by representing the excessive mortality, or 'universe of death,' which, Mr. Godwin observes, would thus be occasioned for the benefit of the geometrical ratio.

Another still more glaring misrepresentation, which cannot be otherwise than wilful, is contained in the following passage. 'Upon the principles here explained, and with the most perfect consistency, Mr. Malthus is, upon all occasions, an advocate for low wages.‡ Now, if there

* Page 278. —† Page 276. —‡ Observations on Reversionary Payments, Vol. I. p. 233. —§ Page 441.

* Page 352. —† Page 337. —‡ Page 32. —§ Page 598.

be one point more than another which Mr. Malthus has laboured in all his works, even to tiresome repetition, it is to show the labouring classes how they may raise their wages effectively and permanently, and become more independent of the rich. On this subject, the tendency of his principles, and the tenor of his language, cannot be mistaken by the meanest capacity. When Mr. Godwin, therefore, asserts, the Mr. Maltz thus is on all occasions an advocate for low wages; it is quite impossible that he can believe what he says; but he chooses to say it, for the chance of its making an impression upon those who, from indolence, ignorance, or prejudice, are disposed to take bold assertions for proofs.

But it would be endless to follow Mr. Godwin through his numerous misrepresentations; particularly as it may be fairly said that his whole work is founded on the grand misrepresentation of asserting, that the misery and vice which Mr. Malthus has stated to be the consequences of an excessive population, have been proposed by him as its remedies, and of representing him, consequently, as a friend to misery and vice; while the letter and spirit of his work clearly show that he is their greatest enemy, and that his whole aim and object is to diminish their amount. Mr. Godwin has followed Mr. Graham and others, in accusing Mr. Malthus of the ingenious expedient of proposing misery as a remedy for want.

On the whole, we cannot but think that this performance of Mr. Godwin is extremely discreditable to him, both as to matter and manner. It contains more nonsense, and more abuse, than any other answer to Mr. Malthus which we have met with; and, whatever impression it may chance to make, for a short time, from the virulence of its language and the boldness of its assertions, the only permanent effect of it will be, to establish more firmly the doctrines of the Essay on Population.

As a strong presumption of this, we will notice one more passage in Mr. Godwin's work, in which, with great rashness, he reduces the question to a very narrow compass; and makes an avowal which leaves him quite without excuse for the language he has used. In page 402, he distinctly acknowledges that there is great difficulty in accounting for the rapid increase of population which appears in the American censuses; and then goes on to say—"We have no choice in the solution of this difficulty, but either to refer it to an inherent, rapid, and incessant power in the human species to multiply its numbers, or to emigration." Now we think we have clearly shown, that it is not owing to emigration. Consequently it follows, from Mr. Godwin's own statement, that there is an inherent, rapid, and incessant power in the human species to multiply its numbers.

And that there is, all nature cries aloud.

America affords a specimen of the most rapid increase with which we are acquainted; only because from peculiar circumstance the demand for labour, and the real reward of labour have been there the greatest. But there is hardly a country in Europe where, under similar circumstances, the increase of population would not have been as rapid: And if America had never been known, we should not have wanted ample testimonies to the truth of that great law by which the progress of population is regulated. Russia, Ireland, and some of the parts of Germany referred to by Lussuilet, with the wages of labour much inferior to those of America, have increased with a rapidity quite sufficient to establish the principle, if not the exact rate. Ample proofs of the principle are indeed at our very doors. In many of the country parishes of England, the number of births is nearly double the number of deaths. And throughout the whole country, in the interval between the first and second enumerations in 1800 and 1810, the rate of increase was such as would double the population in 56 years, notwithstanding the number of persons in England who do not marry, the number who delay marriage till late, and the mortality occasioned by our large towns and manufactories. There cannot, then, be the slightest doubt that, if nearly all our population lived in the country, and the labouring classes could have as great a command of necessities and conveniences as they have had in United States, the population of England would double, from procreation only, in considerably less than twenty-five years.

But, supposing this to be true (and in reality there can be no reasonable question of its truth), it becomes those who are continually de-

* This is Mr. Godwin's constant language; and he sums up by saying, "He who has written three volumes, expressly to point out the advantages we obtain from the presence of vice and misery," &c. &c. 111. This extreme absurdity of such accusations must of course blunt the effects of their malice. p. 524.

† Mr. Godwin himself speaks of the passage over of 165,000 or even 90,000 persons yearly, to America, as an astounding conception, (p. 402). It is indeed so astounding as to be utterly incredible; and from 1800 to 1810, when scarcely a rumour of emigration was heard, morally impossible.

claiming against the doctrines of Mr. Malthus to consider, that their declamations must all tend, as far as they go, to lower the wages of labour, and depress the condition of the poor. If the tendency to increase be such as has been stated, it is not only an act of folly, but an act of injustice and cruelty to the labouring classes, publicly to deny it. And those who, in the House of Commons, hold a language calculated to make the poor believe that there is no kind of reason for any prudential restraint on marriage, because all that are born have a mortgage upon the land, and a claim of right to be furnished with work and subsistence, certainly take upon themselves a most perilous responsibility. They are not only doing all they can to make the Poor-rates absorb the whole rental of the kingdom; but, what is of infinitely more consequence, they are contributing, by all the means in their power, to plunge the labouring classes into irretrievable poverty, dependance, and distress.

What cannot be done, will not be done. We may promise to maintain the poor adequately; but we shall deceive them, and shall not do it; and the main consequence of our inconsiderate promises will be, to enlarge the circle of misery, and to force many into it, who, if they had not been deprived of the proper motives to exertion, by being led into an error, would have avoided it. If the law of population be such as has been stated, it is a truth which it particularly concerns the poor to know: And, in fact, the general circulation of this truth must be the foundation of all essential improvement in their condition. We quite agree with Mr. Malthus in reprobating any positive laws against early marriages: But without any such laws, we think that something very important would be done, if the poor were fully convinced that population has a powerful tendency to increase; that the main cause of low wages is the abundance of hands, compared with the work to be done; and that the only mode of raising them effectively and permanently, is to proportion more nearly the supply of labour to the demand for it.

With regard to the general question of the Poor Laws, we have obviously left ourselves no room to enter upon it. We will only therefore add, that, even should the Legislature determine, under all circumstances, to make no very essential alteration in them; yet if, instead of asserting that the poor have a mortgage to an indefinite extent on the land, and a full claim of right to support, the Poor-rates were called a compulsory charity, limited by the necessity of the case, and the discretion and resources of the society; and if they were administered under the constant conviction of the great truth above referred to, we cannot but think that the present evils arising from them might not only be prevented from increasing, but might be gradually diminished; and that, after the present season of difficulty was over, we might look forward, with some hope, to a positive improvement in the condition of the labouring classes—to higher wages and greater independence.

Interior of Africa.

To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle,
SIR, The following facts are important to the commercial interest of the United Kingdom; I presume they will readily find a place in your vehicle of public communication.

Letters from Gambia, having announced that Omar, the Sheikh of the Tarassas Arabs, who occupy the desert between Portandik and Timbuctoo, had arrived at Bathurst, for the purpose of making arrangements with the merchants for the supply of Gum Arabic, at Portandik, and, as that Chief has manifested the greatest anxiety to establish his trade with the English on the firmest basis, we hope our countrymen (influenced with a laudable spirit of enterprise,) will not suffer this favourable opportunity to pass, but that they will now open a communication with Timbuctoo through his territory. It is most certain, that a connexion formed with this man, might ensure protection to any Englishman desirous of penetrating to Timbuctoo; nay, he himself, for a moderate remuneration (offered with secrecy), would, and could protect any traveller all the way to that emporium of Central Africa. The prospect of hire for the Camels of the Tarassas Arabs, which would necessarily result from the establishment of a commercial intercourse, would alone be sufficient to secure his interest and support in promoting such an undertaking; and although the road through this part of the Tarassas country is not so eligible as that suggested by Mr. Jackson, in his work annexed to Shabeeny's Account of Timbuctoo (because it is so near to the French Senegal territory), yet, notwithstanding this objection, we think it may lead to incalculable advantages, and be the means of opening markets hitherto sealed up from the intercourse of nations and of commerce.

Salisbury, Oct. 1, 1821.

AFRICANUS.

* Vide the Map in Shabeeny's Account of Timbuctoo, p. 1.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

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Storm and Earthquake.

The close of the last month and the commencement of the present have been marked by some of the severest Squalls that we have for a long time witnessed. Those which happened on the 30th and 31st ultimo have been already described. On the 4th instant, there occurred one of still greater violence than either of the preceding, the lightning being fierce and vivid in the extreme, the thunder rattling like the crash of falling ruins rather than rolling in its ordinary manner; the rain too poured in torrents, and the blasts of wind were violent at intervals. But the Storm of Friday the 5th instant, which came on about the same period as the others, near 8 P. M. was far more violent than either of those that occurred before it. The lightning continued to burst with such rapidity as to form sometimes a continued blaze for upwards of a minute; the thunder was like the sound of falling rocks or mountains; the rain poured in streams and torrents, and the gusts of wind were occasionally such as to make the walls of the upper rooms tremble. We have not heard of any very serious injury being sustained by either of these tempestuous agitations of the elements; but it would be surprising indeed if some accidents had not occurred. In the Old China Bazar the House of Mr. Shakur had its wall rent asunder down to the arch of the window, and the sashes and shutter broken by the lightning about 10 o'clock.

The Public must be aware of the danger of venturing on the River in small Boats at this critical season, and that they may be put still more on their guard, we think it proper to mention that several narrow escapes have already come to our knowledge. A few days ago a Boat was upset on a bank; and the Gentleman who was in her at the time, continued some hours exposed on it, till by the tide flowing the water rose so high that if some one had not come to his assistance he must soon have perished.

From Kedgeree, we have received a note dated the 5th, which contains a Statement of the Weather at that place on the preceding day, from which the following is an extract.

"Yesterday afternoon was very cloudy, with distant thunder all round the compass, indicating an approaching Storm. After sunset, the lightning became very vivid, and increased as the evening advanced; and the Thunder approaching nearer, large drops of rain began to fall, with heavy gusts of wind from the N. W. which gradually veered round to the N. N. E. and E. where it blew a complete gale, with heavy rain, and continued until this morning 2 A. M. During the Storm, a fine fat bullock, a large up-country milch goat, and a fine Patna sheep fell victims to the lightning; a tree also felt the effects of it and was much shivered."

The following are Extracts of Letters from the Interior, mentioning the Shock of the Earthquake felt here on the 3d instant:—

Berhampore, April 4, 1822.—The 30th ult. was cloudy with rain increasing towards sun-set to a heavy shower, which continued until seven P. M. the wind varying all round the compass, and after the last shower settling to a strong breeze from the northward; appearances threatened so much that apprehensions were entertained for the cold weather crops of the Natives, a considerable part still remaining on the ground; but we have since had fine cool weather. Yesterday evening (the 3d) at 23 minutes past 10, P. M. the shock of an Earthquake was felt at this station, its direction was from about N. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. passing to the Southward, the undulating motion was rapid, and similar to that experienced in a ship, in a short swell of the sea; it was severer than any I recollect having felt in this part of the country, and continued for near a minute, attended with a rumbling noise similar to that made by the passing of several heavy carriages: the venetians, doors, and sashes, vibrated rapidly, indeed such was the effect of the shock that the Troops ran from their Barracks into the Square.

Kishnagur, April 4, 1822.—A very severe Earthquake was felt here last night at 24 minutes past 10 o'clock. The direction it took was from North-east to South-west, and lasted for nearly the space of two minutes.

Indian News.

Bombay, March 16, 1822.—The Force stationed on the Island of Kishma, under the command of Lieut. Col. Kennet, has been removed by that Officer from Kishma to Sallack, a station a little to the northward.

The Artillery, Bombay European Regiment and Pioneers were embarked on board the Honorable Company's cruisers on the 1st of February at Kishma, and anchored at Sallack on the 3d. Part of the 2d or Marine Battalion 12th Regiment, landed on the 14th February, and on the 1st of March the whole of the troops, with the exception of 2 companies 2d Batt. 12th Regt. had safely landed at the new Cantonment; and the small remainder of the Force was daily expected to arrive.

Sufficient time had not elapsed to enable the Commanding Officer to report whether the change would realize his expectations of benefit in the health of the troops; amongst the Europeans an improvement had taken place; but amongst the Native troops, sickness had latterly rather increased; this unfavourable circumstance is ascribed however to the fatigue and exposure consequent on the removal.—*Courier.*

Penang.—We have been obligingly favoured with the sight of a letter from Penang, dated the 13th of March, which states, that the apprehension lately entertained of an attack on that Island being contemplated by the Siamese, is gradually losing ground. Capt. Burney, after inspecting their operations at Quedah, had returned, and his report has had the full effect of tranquillizing the minds of such as apprehended their premeditated threats being carried into effect. The PHOENIX Brig left Penang on the 13th ultimo for Siam. The MAGNET, we are sorry to state, was lost at Manilla about the 11th, and intelligence has just now been received of the loss of the LOWJEE JANET, belonging to Penang.—*Hurkaru.*

CHINESE EDICT.

KWANG, the late PANGEE-KEEN, and CHUNG the TUNG-KWAN Magistrate, hereby issue an Order to the HONG MERCHANTS.

We have now respectfully received a reply from His Excellency the Governor of Kwang Tung and Kwang-se, in the following words:

"The Treasurer and the Judge have stated in an authenticated form what Kwang the late Pangee Keen had stated to them, the substance of which was contained in a Chinese Document delivered to him by the Hong Merchants from the English Chief Urmston and the others, and was founded on circumstances stated by the Hong Merchants in behalf of the Chief and the others. It appears that the Man of War has already taken away in her the foreign murderers, and has run away back to her own country; and the said Chief at this time indeed appears not to have any means of ordering the delivering up of those murderers; but it is authenticated that they (the Chief and the others) have presented an Official Document, saying that they will take all the circumstances of this affair from first to last, and write home, that it may be examined and managed.

Further, the said Treasurer, Judge, and others, have, founded on certain circumstances, requested and entreated that the Trade might be opened, and that indulgence might be shewn, and, as in former Edicts, permission be given to all the Ships to open their hatches and carry on Commerce.

Uniting these circumstances, I, the Governor, hereby direct the Treasurer and Judge forthwith to act in obedience to the tenor of this, and transmit an Order to the Kwang, Choo-Too, and to the Officers deputed to arrange this affair, to issue an Edict to the Hong Merchants, that they may promulgate it to the Chief Urmston and the others, to return immediately to the Foreign Factories, and transact business; that all the Merchant Ships, without exception, are permitted to open their hatches and take goods on board to enable them to avail themselves of the proper season, and set sail to return home. This is an extraordinary favor, arising from tender regard to the Foreigners in me the Governor, and they ought universally to feel grateful."

This, the Governor's will, has come before us the Treasurer and Judge, and we direct that this Edict be communicated to the Hong Merchants, that they may enjoin it upon the Chief Urmston, and the Captains, and others, to yield obedience thereto.—Do not oppose,

Taoocoo Kwang, 2nd Year 1st Moon }
29th Day, 20th February 1822. }

A Special Edict.

[John Bull,

Improved Rocket Practice.

SIR, *To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.*

Having been present at the second trial of the Improved Congreve Rockets at Dum-Dum on the 14th of last month, and being one among the many who witnessed the experiment with an unjaudiced eye, I have no hesitation in affirming my thorough conviction of this formidable weapon having been brought to a degree of perfection, even to satisfy the minds of the most prejudiced, and I am confident the efficiency of this missile in all operations of offensive or defensive warfare, can no longer be disputed.—The precision with which the Rockets were directed and projected, notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather on the evening the Practice took place (the wind blowing in an oblique direction across the range, and coming also in sudden gusts) would be fully substantiated by a publication of the Report of the Practice, but as this has not been deemed necessary by the competent authorities, a summary view of the result of the experiment may prove satisfactory to your Military Readers.

The Practice commenced by a discharge from a ground battery of 8 twelve pounder Rockets levelled in an horizontal direction against a Target 700 yards distant; they were fired by a leader Quick Match, and went off regularly in succession, and although only one of them took effect in the Target (owing to the cause already stated, the oblique direction of the wind acting upon the shaft) still the flight of the whole, with the exception of one which exploded about 100 yards in front of the battery, was admirable, and well calculated to impress upon the minds of the spectators the destructive powers of this formidable engine of War.

The 2d discharge was of 8 three pounders from a Volley Carriage, at an elevation of 7° 30'—distance from the Target 700 yards, 2 of these struck the Butt, and the rest ranged remarkably well, although they were impelled to the right by the wind blowing upon the shaft in an oblique direction.

The 3d discharge, of 8 six pounders from a Volley Carriage, at an elevation of 9° 30' distance from the Target 800 yards. Four of these took effect in the Butt and Target, and although one of them burst about 150 yards in front of the Battery, the range of the rest was excellent, and this discharge cannot but be deemed highly satisfactory.

The 4th discharge, of 4 twelve Pounders, at an elevation of 12° from a Field Carriage, Target 1200 yards distant, was admirable, one of them striking the Butt, and the rest preserving a fine line in their course.

The 5th discharge of 6 eighteen Pounders, from an eighteen Pounder Portable Frame, at an elevation of 13° 30', was good; two took effect in the Butt, two passed over the Target in a fine line, and the whole ranged well.

The 6th discharge of 6 twenty-four Pounders from a Bombarding Frame, elevation and distance as above, was the *chef d'œuvre* of the Practice; one took effect in the Butt, two in the Target, and the whole ranged with a degree of precision which the most sanguine cannot expect to see surpassed.

The 7th and last discharge, 3 thirty-two Pounders from a Bombarding Frame, at an elevation of 14°, distance of the Target 1,200 yards, concluded the Practice; the two first Rockets were excellent, one having struck the Butt and the other the Target, the 3d Rocket unfortunately, (the tube having become heated by the discharge of the former), ignited, the combustible matter and the Rocket burst in the tube, destroying it, but without doing any other mischief.

The Practice of which the foregoing is a correct detail, was superintended by Captain H. Nicholson; and I have no doubt a cool and dispassionate perusal of it will not only prove highly creditable to the exertions of that meritorious Officer, but also tend to establish on a firm basis the character of the IMPROVED CONGREVE ROCKET, as a most formidable weapon in all modes of warfare, whether offensive or defensive.

I may be asked, why I have allowed such a length of time to elapse, in making this communication; and I have only to of-

fer in palliation, that habitual indolence, which the greater part of us are more or less liable to, in this enervating climate. Indeed I do not think I should have taken up my pen at present, had I not seen in one of your late Numbers, a letter from Meerut signed by "A BIRD OF PASSAGE." It is not my intention to offer any observations upon the flippant assertions this Writer has thrown out in disparagement to the improved Congreve Rocket, because I conceive the detail I have given of the Practice at Dum-Dum (the correctness of which I challenge any one to deny) sufficiently refutes all that this Tyro has asserted. I shall therefore leave him to the enjoyment of his Two Lacks and a half of Rupees, which by the bye is a large sum for a young Gentleman to have accumulated, and I trust he will excuse me if I do not give him credit for more than one Lack, and that a tremendous Lack—but not of Rupees.

I understand Captain Nicholson is about to proceed to the Sister Presidencies, for the purpose of introducing the Improved Rocket System to those Establishments, and I have no doubt, should these be any prejudices existing against this formidable weapon, at either of them, he will as effectually remove them as he has done upon this Establishment.

I have it from undoubted authority, that a Bengal Artillery Officer of high rank, and indisputable professional and general science, is decidedly of opinion, that the Improved Congreve Rocket, even in the hands of an Officer of moderate capacity, will prove a most efficient destructive weapon, whenever it may be required, in either offensive or defensive operations.

I am, Sir, still your obedient Servant,

Calcutta, April 4, 1822.

CENTURION.

Indigo Sowing.

Jessore, April 2, 1822.—On the night of the 29th ultimo we had a severe storm here: dreadful thunder and lightning, accompanied with a heavy fall of rain, and hailstones as large as a pigeon's egg. All our sowings are nearly completed, and we never before experienced a seed-time so favourable as this has been: every thing happened exactly to our wish; rain and sunshine at intervals just as we wanted them; and if the season end as prosperously as it has begun, we shall have more plant than we can work off. The young plants are thriving beautifully, and some of them are already a foot high.

Large Fishes.

SIR, *To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.*

A Reader of the CALCUTTA JOURNAL notices in the Journal of the 4th instant, mention of a Sturgeon brought to Market at Lisle, measuring 10 feet in length, and weighing 176 lbs. This is termed an enormous Fish. It will hardly be admitted to deserve that term, when it is considered that the common Sturgeon grows to the length of 18 to 20 feet, and the species from which Isinglass is prepared "Acipenser Huso," is often found to the length of 25 feet, according to Shaw.

It may not be unacceptable to the Editor to be informed of the size to which a species of Perch grows, found on the Delta of the Ganges, and brought by the way of the Salt-water Lake and sold in the Calcutta Markets, under the name of Biktee, better known to the English under the name of "Kockup." The Natives distinguish three kinds; the Common Biktee, the Koojah Biktee, and the Shona Biktee,

Of the last kind, the writer of this notice purchased one, from the Fish Boats at Bailoo Ghaut, on the borders of the Lake, which measured in length 5 feet 6½ inches; in circumference 3 feet 6½ inches, and weighed 120 lbs. 4 ounces. The scales were large in proportion to the size of the Fish, and highly splendid; for the common covering of every scale was beautifully gilded, and which, when scraped off, had much the appearance of leaf-gold.

The Fish was cut up and divided into many shares among the servants, and being dressed while fresh, was declared to be wholesome and palatable food.

Calcutta, April 5, 1822.

PISCINARIUS.

Monday, April 8, 1822.

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Copernicus and La Place.*To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.*

SIR,

Being seriously and sincerely a friend to the Astronomical projects of COPERNICUS, I regret that his labours have been interrupted by a vain attempt to efface the stain of Atheism from the character of LA PLACE: but his necessary failure in this collateral undertaking need detract nothing from the readiness of all parties to concur in forwarding his main object.

How do COPERNICUS and PHILO repel the charge of Atheism? First, by simply denying the correctness of my definition of Atheism: secondly, by showing that, not LA PLACE, but another writer has applied the doctrine of final causes to the Astronomical discoveries of LA PLACE; and then exclaiming, "Here is authority OPPOSED to THEOPHILUS, which will probably be considered by many almost as good as his own!" In deference to PHILO's respect for "authority," I will support my definition of Atheism by the following passage from Dr. Thomas Brown's Book on Cause and Effect, p. 525. "A miracle is only an extraordinary event, the result of extraordinary circumstances; an effect that indicates a Power of a higher order, than the powers which we are accustomed directly to trace in phenomena more familiar to us, but a Power whose continued and ever-present existence, it is ATHEISM only that denies." And in support of my assertion that, not only was there not in all the Works of LA PLACE a single even indirect acknowledgement of the agency of a Creator and Governor of the world (my two adversaries have not shown and cannot show that there is) but that they contain passages of avowed and systematic Atheism, I have now the means of submitting to them an extract from the second part of Dugald Stewart's First Dissertation, prefixed to the fifth volume of the Supplement to the Encyclopædia.

"The opinions and reasonings of Leibnitz," says this "friendly Theophilus at home," "on the necessary concatenation of all events both physical and moral (which accorded but too well with the philosophy professed by Grimm and Diderot), have been long incorporated with the doctrines of the French materialists, and they have been lately adopted and sanctioned, in all their extent, by a living author, (LA PLACE), the unrivalled splendour of whose mathematical genius may be justly suspected, in the case of some of his admirers, to throw a false lustre on the dark shades of his philosophical creed."—p. 138.

In a note we have the following passage:—"Nous devons donc envisager l'état présent de l'univers comme l'effet de son état antérieur et comme la cause de celui qui va suivre." Une intelligence qui pour un instant donné connoitroit toutes les forces dont la nature est animée, et la situation respective des êtres qui la composent, si d'ailleurs elle étoit assez vaste pour soumettre ces données à l'analyse, embrasseroit dans la même formule, les mouvemens des plus grands corps de l'univers et ceux du plus léger atome. Rien ne seroit incertain pour elle, et l'avenir comme le passé, seroit présent à ses yeux." (*Essai Philosophique sur les Probabilités*, par Laplace.) Is not this the very spirit of the *Theodicea* of Leibnitz, and, when combined with the other reasonings in the *Essay on Probabilities*, the very essence of Spinozism?—p. 139.

It was therefore not without reason that I began by asking COPERNICUS if he understood what LA PLACE meant by *nos vrais rapports avec la Nature*, and by dissipating *les craintes produites par les phénomènes célestes*. Is it not manifest that among these "fears" are to be included, not merely the forgotten dreams of Astrology, but the apprehensions of a retributory hereafter? A man who, like Newton, did honour to human nature, I mean the great Bishop Butler, says, "There is in the present age, a certain fearlessness, with regard to what may be hereafter, under the government of God, which nothing but an universally acknowledged demonstration on the side of Atheism can justify, and which makes it quite necessary that men be reminded, and, if possible, made to feel, that there is no sort of ground for being thus presumptuous, even upon the most sceptical principles." "Besides," as he elsewhere observes, "that

we are to live hereafter, is just as reconcileable with the scheme of Atheism, and as well to be accounted for by it, as that we are now alive is."

Thus even Atheists do not escape from the Bishop's grasp; but it is needless to insist on the tendency of their doctrine to corrupt or eradicate the principles of morality, and to diffuse vice and misery through the world.

April 6, 1822.

THEOPHILUS.

Another Special Edict.*To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.*

SIR,

I send you a copy of the Order in Council, which emanated from the Wisdom of the Councillors of the Celestial Empire of China; it was translated by a learned Jung, a friend of mine, from whom I procured it only, by a promise which I gave of not putting it to any unworthy use, but that I should take especial care that at my demise it should be sent to one of the Colleges in England, there to be deposited as the most important and never-to-be-sufficiently-venerated morceau of Policy, and as a piece indicative of the comprehension understanding of the Sages of China.

To Whang Hy, Whang Ho, Yang Ning-tu, and Shem-bum-fo, Hong Merchants, at our Tea Gardens called Canton (Hong is the Chinese for Tea.)

These presents, giving you wretches life and happiness are to let you know, that we, your Father and Mother, have sat upon your Report (this is the Chinese mode of acknowledging the receipt of a Despatch) and have used it with gentle consideration.

The light of our heavenly eyes were dimmed by the relation of the conduct of those pigs, the English; who in drinking the refreshing draughts of Tea, from our Imperial Tea-pot, Canton, have made themselves beastly drunk, and have dared to set at naught the powers of the Celestial Empire.

In so much, therefore, as we, your Mung-foo (King) have just reason to cause you to exterminate these dogs of English; yet as we are the Fount of Mercy, as far as we are disposed to extend it: we, your Father and Mother, with our dearly beloved Son (the produce of our loins) in full Council of all the Bum-foozledums (Councillors) do will that you Whang-Hy, &c. &c. do instantly cause these drunken Tea-drinking vagabonds to be forthwith apprehended; and that you the said Whang-Hy, will send the Treasurer, Flim-flam, on board their ships, from which they will pull out the main masts, and forthwith send them to our presence, for the purpose of being made into toothpicks, to extract the rage which we feel, and which is now between our angelic teeth. We do further ordain, that you will cause the Captain of the Ship to be smothered in sugar, and made into Chow-chow, for our own Imperial table. Also the head *Supra Cargo* to be served in like manner. They are to be smothered, in order that their blood and trail may serve to feed our revenge. The other malefactors are to be strangled, and divided among the Mandarins of our Kingdom. But, should there be any women and young children, you will cause their wind to be stopped, and to be preserved in Sugar Candy. The first, for our especial use, and the latter for the gratification of our Heavenly offspring.

Fail not to do these, if you do not wished to be damned, which sentence we will issue against you if one hair of your head wags contrary to our desire.—Do not oppose.

Given at Munguo Kwang (Fiery palace) in the 300th year of our Reign, on 48th day of the 76th Moon of the year Twilly Fung-fah.—A Special Edict.

HIGH WATER AT CALCUTTA THIS DAY.

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Morning..... | 4 58 |
| Evening..... | 4 32 |
| Moon's Age..... | 17 Days. |

More Discoveries.

To the Editor of the Bengal Hurkaru.

Sir,

I observe a notice in your Paper of yesterday taken from the JOHN BULL, respecting "a singular property of the plain mirror," which I conceive to be very clearly detailed, having frequently experienced a similar effect in viewing the immersion of *Jupiter's Satellites*. The glass I used, was a fine old Dutch plate, about 16 inches long and 10 wide, by which, even during day, I have been enabled to discern objects at a great distance, much more distinctly than with the naked eye. That the plain mirror possesses many curious properties, I shall endeavour to illustrate, by a simple process, with which almost every school-boy is acquainted. Provide yourself with an even plate, of ground and well polished mirror glass, as near the above dimensions as possible, if without a frame so much the better, and try the following experiment on any clear moon-light evening. First turn the reflecting side of the mirror downwards, and place one of the longest sides, in a horizontal position, close to your temples, then face towards the moon, and elevate the outer edge slowly, until you find the figure fully reflected on the further edge; elevate the glass a little more, steadily and cautiously, 'till you perceive the moon near the center of the glass, at which period you will observe a succession of moons faintly arranged behind one another, each separate image denoting one day's age of the moon, towards being full, and after which, each exhibits the number of days from the change. Out of several hundred experiments, I have never failed in one instance with my present mirror, except when new moon might occur in the afternoon, thus making half a day, which is invariably lost. Your's Obediently

Chouringhee, 4th April.

P.

Marriages.

At St. George's Church, Madras, on the 21st ultimo, by the Reverend WILLIAM THOMAS, Senior Chaplain, Major HENRY BOWDLER, commanding the 2d Battalion 21st Regiment of Native Infantry, to MARIA JANE, sixth Daughter of the late JOHN ABRAHAM, Esq. of Tottenham Middlesex.

At St. Thomas's Church, Bombay, on the 7th ultimo, by the Reverend H. DAVIES, the Reverend J. HANDS, Missionary, to Miss ELIZABETH SMYTH.

At Chicacole, on the 18th of February, by GEORGE GREGORY, Esq. Judge and Criminal Judge, Mr. JOHN DE CRUZ, to Miss BERNARDINA DE ROZARIO.

Births.

On the 29th ultimo, the Wife of Mr. T. STEERS, of a Son and Heir.

At Madras, on the 15th ultimo, the Lady of Ensign STODDARD, of His Majesty's 34th Regiment, of a Son.

At Mangalore, on the 11th ultimo, the Lady of Lieutenant Colonel ROBERT M'DOWALL, of a Son.

At Bombay, on the 11th ultimo, Mrs. THOMAS FERRAR, of a Daughter.

At Sarat, on the 1st ultimo, the Lady of H. H. GLASS, Esq. of the Civil Service, of a Son.

At Salem, on the 5th ultimo, the Lady of JOHN REID, Esq. of a Son.

Deaths.

On the 2d instant, at the General Hospital, Mr. DANIEL LANKHEET, aged 23 years, 3 months and 2 days.

At Cuttack, on the 20th ultimo, Lieutenant BAPTIST EDWARD ISAAC, of the 1st Battalion 7th Regiment of Native Infantry.

At St. Thomas's Mount, Madras, on the 20th ultimo, at the house of Lieutenant Colonel LIMOND, of the Artillery, Ensign ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, of the 3d Light Infantry, aged 17 years.

At Tranquebar, on the 18th ultimo, ROBERT COUNTEN PAVIN HARRIS, youngest Son of Captain R. HARRIS, of the Country Service, aged 4 years and 4 months.

At St. Thomas's Mount, Madras, on the 6th ultimo, WILLIAM ANTHONY, the only Son of Quarter Master WILLIAM DOYLE, of the Horse Brigade, aged 2 years and 10 months.

At Masulipatam, on the 20th of December last, Mr. LEWIS DE PRAZER, aged 45 years, 6 months and 18 days, leaving a Wife, nine Children, an aged Father and Mother, and other relations, deeply to regret his irreparable loss.

CURRENT VALUE OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

| BUY | Calcutta | SELL |
|------|---------------------------|-------|
| 20 8 | Six per cent. New Loans | 20 4 |
| 23 0 | Ditto Remittable, 1819-20 | 22 12 |

Shipping Arrivals.

CALCUTTA.

| Date | Names of Vessels | Flags | Commanders | From Whence | Left |
|---------|------------------|---------|------------|-------------|---------|
| April 6 | Lady Farquhar | British | A. Ambrose | Mauritius | Jan. 31 |
| 6 | Titaghur | British | T. Taylor | Rangoon | Mar. 23 |

MADRAS.

| Date | Names of Vessels | Flags | Commanders | From Whence | Left |
|---------|------------------|---------|------------|-------------|---------|
| Mar. 17 | Kent | British | E. C. Kemp | Batavia | Jan. 23 |
| 19 | Britannia | British | W. Luke | Penang | Mar. 4 |
| 19 | Nerbudda | British | F. Patrick | Bombay | Jan. 14 |
| 20 | Pallas | British | W. Cock | Mauritius | Feb. 9 |

BOMBAY.

| Date | Names of Vessels | Flags | Commanders | From Whence | Left |
|---------|------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| Feb. 10 | Flora | British | J. Sherriff | Calcutta | Feb. 1 |
| 10 | Vestal | British | G. W. Guy | Cochin | Feb. 17 |
| 13 | Mercury | British | W. S. Collinson | Sallack | Mar. 2 |

Shipping Departures.

CALCUTTA.

| Date | Names of Vessels | Flags | Commanders | Destination |
|---------|------------------|---------|--------------|---------------|
| April 3 | Valetta | British | J. B. Fraser | Ile of France |

MADRAS.

| Date | Names of Vessels | Flags | Commanders | Destination |
|---------|------------------|---------|---------------|-------------|
| Mar. 13 | Topaze | British | C. Richardson | on a Cruise |
| 19 | Empress | British | Dumeste | Mauritius |
| 20 | Virginia | Amercn. | Davis | Baltimore |
| 21 | Pallas | British | W. Cock | Covelong |
| 21 | Tender Cochin | British | T. H. Twysam | on a Cruise |

BOMBAY.

| Date | Names of Vessels | Flags | Commanders | Destination |
|---------|------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Feb. 10 | Dadaloy | British | C. Malcolm | Eastward |
| 10 | Asia Felix | British | G. Jellicoe | Eastward |
| 11 | Vestal | British | J. W. Guy | Bancote |
| 13 | Wellington | British | M. Freyver | Colombo |
| 13 | Eliza | British | J. Desmier | Quilon |
| 15 | Humayoon Shaw | Arab | Hassan | Muscat |

Nautical Notices.

The following Vessels are at Rangoon.

JOHN MUNRO and PORTSEA, taking in for Madras; EAST INDIAN, taking in Cargo; JULIAN, discharging; JOHN SHORE, laid up; EX-MOUTH, just arrived.

List of Vessels that have left Calcutta for England only, in the Month of March 1822, with the dates of the Pilot quitting them, as far as can be ascertained.

| Names of Vessels | Commanders | Destination | Left the Pilot |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Albion | W. Swainson | Liverpool | March 22 |
| Madras | G. Weltden | London | March 27 |

Letters from the Mauritius dated January 30th, mention the arrival there of the Ship ELIZA on the 11th, the LADY FLORA on the 12th, and the Danish Ship NYMPHE on the 27th of that month, all laden with Rice on account of Government, who retailed it at 4½ Paper Current Dollars per Bag. There had been no late Arrivals from England at Port Louis.

Passengers.

Passengers per Brig LADY FARQUHAR, Captain Alfred Ambrose, from Mauritius the 31st of February, and Madras the 30th of March.

From Mauritius.—Mr. John Hinder, 3d Officer of the Ship LADY FLORA, 13 Lascars and Sepoys belonging to the Ship MATILDA, Captain Scarvell. From Madras.—Mr. Thomas Fims, Chief Officer of the Brig STONEHAM.

Passengers per Brig TITAGHUR, Captain Thomas Taylor, from Rangoon the 23d of March.—Messrs. J. Oliver, and W. Worth, Free Mariners.

Passengers per Cruiser MERCURY, from Sallack to Bombay.—Lieutenant Kitchant, Lieutenant Greer, Mr. Porter, Mr. Delaforce, Pilot of the Honorable Company's Marine.